Home Mission Echoes

"The country for which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers."

Vol. IV. JANUARY, 1900. No. 1.

A Happy

New Year

1900

510 Tremont Temple
Boston

"Topics of the Year."

JANUARY.
Cuba and Puerto Rico.
FEBRUARY.
Alaska.
MARCH.
Negroes.
APRIL.
America's Mission Field.
MAY.
Chinese.
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Anniversary Notes.
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Indians.
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.
OCTOBER.
The Outlook.
NOVEMBER.
Mormons.
DECEMBER.
Mexico.

HOME MISSION ECHOES.

This paper is published monthly under the auspices jointly of the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, and represents in a concise manner the interests of both organizations. It aims to make a cheap, popular Home Mission periodical, attractive in its mechanical features, interesting to old and young in its varied contents, with numerous illustrations during the year. Mrs. M. C. Reynolds is the general editor, and Mrs. Jas. McWhinnie, assistant editor. Rev. H. L. Morehouse, D. D., has charge of the Home Mission Society's Department, and Mrs. Anna Sargent Hunt charge of the Department for "Our Young People."

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JANUARY, 1900

Home Mission Echoes

"Our Echoes roll from soul to soul,
And grow forever and forever." — *Tennyson.*

Vol. IV. JANUARY, 1900. No. 1.

The Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society.

Editorial.

WE extend to every reader of ECHOES a cordial New Year's greeting. As we look at the figures, "1900," we are reminded that in 1901 will dawn upon us a New Century. Some of us have enjoyed New Year's greetings before, but a New Century greeting is a new experience. What shall we give the Lord for our New Century gift? Some money — what we do not need? Some time — all we can spare from self? Some influence — what we do not need to advance our own interests? Let us give a free, joyous, hearty gift of *all* our time, money, influence, as stewards of Him who so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son. What will the New Century bring to us? A few years of service, self-denial, sacrifice, and work for the Master. Most of its years, however, will be spent in the land where there is no sorrow, sickness, nor death, but where, in the presence of the King, we shall be satisfied.

THE Day of Prayer, which, by vote of the Board of Directors of our Society, will be observed annually, will be held this year in the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Bowdoin Square, Thursday, January 25. As the last Thursday in January has been for some years set apart as the Day of Prayer for colleges, it seems fitting that we should meet upon this day and remember our schools. Will not a large number of the women of our churches devote this day to prayer and conference upon our mission schools? Services will begin at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. There are numerous restaurants in this vicinity for those who do not wish to take lunch.

THE publishers of the ECHOES have decided to continue for 1900 the offer made in 1899 of a large wall map of the United States and the world, which is five feet six inches by three feet nine inches. This map will be given to *every church, Sunday school, Circle, and Band* having at the present time not less than twelve nor more than twenty-five subscribers, who will double their present number. Also to any church, Sunday school, Circle, or Band sending a list of fifty subscribers and over. Any church not now taking the ECHOES which shall send a club of twelve will be entitled to the map.

WE appreciate our first printed letter from our new missionary, Mrs. Janie Pritchard Duggan, of Ponce, Puerto Rico. We are hoping that the Christian Endeavor and Farther Lights Societies will pay the salary of this gifted worker. By the payment of twenty-five cents any of the above-named societies can receive a quarterly letter from Mrs. Duggan.

WE promised to give to every subscriber to ECHOES for 1899, either in clubs or singly, on receipt of subscription, a fine group picture of prominent Home Mission workers. A great many of our subscribers did not avail themselves of the offer made last year. As we now have a large number of these pictures on hand, we make this same offer for 1900 to those who did not receive the picture last year. If you wish this picture, you can secure it by sending to 510 Tremont Temple, Boston, Mass.

WILL not each subscriber to HOME MISSION ECHOES spend a little time this month working to extend the circulation of the paper? We believe many people would take the little sheet, if some friend or neighbor would bring it to their attention. We would like to have its patrons do a little prayerful, honest, legitimate electioneering during January in behalf of this periodical. We hope to keep the paper up to its present standard. Will you help us, reader, to increase its circulation? Please remind the person in charge of the ECHOES in your society that the HOME MISSION ECHOES' books close December 31, 1899. It is desirable that *all arrears be paid*, and *subscriptions for the next year be sent to 510 Tremont Temple, at once.* The paper will be sent to subscribers until we are requested to discontinue it.

THE sad news of the death of Mrs. L. S. Thayer, of Foxboro, comes to the desk just as we are sending the paper to press. For years a gift from Mrs. Thayer's Sunday-school class has come to our treasury each month, and we have learned to love her for her work, although we have never seen her. May God comfort those who remain

Puerto Rico.

THE present aspect of missions appears to be peculiarly significant, bringing into it much to sadden, yet, in view of our country's present position, suggesting new and glorious opportunities, if we are faithful to our holy calling.

In the missionary field the Baptists hold an honored place; but this has only been won by steady sacrifice, and now into our hands comes added responsibility. Our Heavenly Father seems to say to us, "Inasmuch as ye have been faithful, I will make you ruler over many lands." And so to us has been given a new gift — the beautiful Island of Puerto Rico is now ours, over Cuba we shall have a controlling influence, and in the Philippine Islands we shall, without doubt, in coming time hold a strong and influential position. I was amazed, the other day, to read of the size of these Islands, of which Manila is the capital. The Philippine Islands are a group as large as the New England States, New York, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey States put together.

Let us look at Puerto Rico, over which our flag now waves in token of possession — an island to which I have been greatly attracted. It has an area of thirty-seven hundred square miles, a chain of lofty mountains intersecting it from east to west. Its valleys and table-lands are all highly fruitful; even the mountains are susceptible of cultivation to their summits, and the pasturage for cattle in the valleys is always verdant and luxurious. Seventeen rivers water its surface, and with regard to it the well-known lines are suggested: "Where every prospect pleases, and only man is vile." Does it not seem to you that God has graciously given us this land? that, in the words of the Egyptian princess, on the finding of Moses at the Nile's brink, among the bulrushes, said to his mother, supposing her to be a nurse: "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages?" Little did the princess know that child's wonderful destiny; neither do we know what this gift of God's hand means to us. What the future influence of this island will be, in a sense, lies in our hands.

Valiantly have our soldiers done their part; unto them God has given victory upon victory. Now, it rests with us to as faithfully, as perfectly, follow up their successes. Many of the commanders and men in that campaign consecrated their work by prayer, and shall not we emulate their example, follow in their footsteps? For without consecration and prayer we shall fail.

The inhabitants of all these islands — Cuba and the rest — are represented as treacherous, cruel, and vindictive; but let us not forget they have been the victims of great oppression and cruel wrong, with a religion whose influence was of the worst, — a religion which still maintains the Inquisition, an institution that only three years ago condemned two sisters to be burned at the stake because they professed faith in Christ as their only Saviour.

And so this land so beautiful, this people so ignorant and wicked, have become ours. And the question now is, What is God's gracious purpose to us, and to them, in this gift? The acquisition of these lands will, without doubt, bring eventually great wealth to our people. What shall we give in return? What is their direst need? Who can answer this question as our missionary circles can? Shall we not arise in the fullness of our gratitude for the blessings we so richly enjoy, and take the cup of salvation, and all the blessings that that cup contains, and give it to them, — the richest gift we possess, our hope of everlasting life, the source of every blessing?

A great work is before us in these new possessions. The number of our missionaries must be largely increased, schools must be instituted, and the gospel preached.

Palo Seco, at the Mouth of Bayanion River.

Great prejudices must be overcome. It is a difficult field, but if we are faithful God will surely open the way for us. It will, without doubt, be exceedingly difficult to influence the grown men and women of these lands, whose hearts have become hardened in wrong-doing. Still, we must never forget that no heart is so hard that God cannot soften it. The young men and women, and the dear children of these lands, seem the most hopeful subjects of influence. It is a fact, also, that the people are weary of Spanish rule, and will the more incline to our teachings.

It is said that Signor Sagasta, the Spanish Prime Minister, at the time when the treaty between America and Spain was signed, laughed as he said: "Well, they will have trouble enough with their new possessions, as we have had all these years." No, Signor Sagasta, so far as Cuba and Puerto Rico are concerned, you mistake. Your weapons have been carnal, and like begets like. No, like David of old, we will say to this Goliath: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield, but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts." And may God give us the victory!

MRS. E. W. YALE.

The above article on Puerto Rico was written by Mrs. E. W. Yale, of Bennington, Vermont, for the meeting of the Ladies' Circle. Mrs. Yale is nearly eighty years of age, and is one of those who pray and give for our work.

Life Among the Peasantry.*

THE life of the peasant, the peon, of Puerto Rico, is not a dream of ease or luxury; neither has he ever passed through the nightmare of wretched hunger and biting cold, which adds so vitally to the hardships of the poverty stricken in northern climes. In squalor and filth, in crudity and ignorance, the larger number of the inhabitants go through their comparatively short lives, for one does not see many aged people among them. They die off from fevers, contagious diseases, and troubles handed down from sickened forefathers, at a comparatively early age.

At no period of the poor man's existence can he suffer the tortures of starvation because his job of work has given out, for while during whole months of the year he may not earn a single centavo, he has still his little plot of vegetables on the hill; then, if worst comes to worst, or the land-owner turns him out, he may live on the profusion of fruits and roots of the forest, or, as is a common practice in the country, upon the fruits filched from his more opulent neighbor.

In the dry season he complains of the cold, yet he needs but the merest rags to cover his nakedness, for on no day in the year is it colder than our mildest autumnal weather. Shoes are a useless burden to his bare and sole-leather-lined feet, which have travelled the rocky, briery trails in their nakedness from infancy; and a hat, if he must have it, he makes in his own house from the grass grown around the doorway.

The house in which he is domiciled he builds in a few short days, from poles and thatch and the bark of the royal palm; and a good house it is, in spite of its primitive appearance, for it screens him from the colder winds of night, and sheds the water of the driving rains like a duck's back.

The average wages of a laboring man is less than fifty cents, Spanish, a day; and the work for which he is paid does not cover a period of more than five months in the year. In idle times of the year he must support himself from his garden patch on the hillside.

Children are an ever-present and abundant factor in the domestic economy of the peasant's life. Domestic economy is the fitting term, since it costs nothing to supply the air of day to the lungs of these little waifs, and it costs nothing for their clothes, for they run about in the sunshine and rain just as God made them, and sleep in odd corners, without cover, for the first half-dozen years of their baby lives, while, when older, a single discarded tattered garment adds to their natural grace the shield of decency. So they live, without expense and with little tenderness bestowed upon them in the shape of material comforts, though the mother's kiss is often given and the father pats the little head. They soon toddle, at the command of the mother, to do small errands, to help weed the garden, to bring the handful of wood for the fire, to dig the tubers for a meagre meal, and, lastly, to hold up their tiny hands, and, with pleading eyes, gain a copper from the passer-by on the roadside. They are a good investment in the family; the majority of them die at an early age, and it costs but a few strained hours to the mother's heart, a bit of cloth for a shroud, and the energy needed to carry the tiny form to the potter's field. Offsetting this is the usefulness of those who, by the law of the survival of the fittest, pull through, with sturdy forms, to pick berries, work in the cane and tobacco fields, and add to the common fund, until, at a varying age, they rebel against the paternal banker, and live for themselves in poverty and in bondage to the landed kings, just as the generations who came before them.

Marriage is almost unknown among the very poor classes, and the distinction of having the written word and the blessing of the priest carries with it no special mead of honor; it is a much easier matter for a man to select his companionable partner and set up housekeeping in a new wickiup under the banana trees without more ado. Wretchedness, poverty, and oppressive rulers beget, as an offspring, an abject humanity, with no great sense of moral honor; but it is to be remarked that there is little quarrelling among these people thus paired, and their relations, while not the acme of conventional modesty and virtue, are, on the whole, constant.

After a day's toil, the women plod home in the dying sunlight, with swaying hips and stiff necks, carrying, balanced on their heads, huge bundles of damp clothes, washed in the near-by river, which they throw in an empty corner of the hut for to-morrow's ironing. They laboriously

Water Carrier of Rio Piedras.

blow the fleeting spark of a carefully smouldered fire into a bright glowing flame, and prepare the frugal meal for the family. The tiny light sparkles on the hillside in the falling darkness, and, with far more picturesque effect than does the ruddy glow of a conventional hearthstone within a luxurious home, welcomes the home-coming of a hare-

(Condensed from "Puerto Rico: Its Conditions and Possibilities." Copyright by Harper & Brothers. 1900. Price, $2.50.)

footed, ragged, cotton-apparelled husband, who wearily climbs the narrow, winding pathway.

The little children are already creeping into the house, to lie down in odd corners for a night of dreamless slumber, clasping some morsel of food, to be eaten or not, depending on the speed of Morpheus's descending arms.

The American nation has been to the Puerto Rican, in the past, the synonym of all that is just and grand and righteous, and, if we do not abuse our power, Puerto Rico may be made a twentieth century Garden of Eden, in which the native, trained in new methods of freedom, may, for the first time in three centuries, enjoy the sweets of liberty.

From Our Missionary.

PONCE, PUERTO RICO, NOV. 6, 1899.

I WROTE you a short letter from San Juan, on my arrival, October 12, before meeting with our mission workers in the north of the island. On that very day, Mr. McCormick came from Rio Piedras, where he is living with his family, and Miss Hayes, and carried me back with him to his house.

As my steamship ticket was for San Juan only, and as it seemed best to stop there, anyway, to learn something of the work already begun in the north, I was very glad to accept Mr. McCormick's invitation for a visit of ten days or a fortnight at his house.

Small as this island is, there are difficulties in getting from place to place, which must be planned for several days ahead, and it is possible that I shall not again see San Juan until undertaking a homeward trip in the future.

My stay in Rio Piedras, seven miles from the capital, was helpful in many ways. I rested from the rather trying voyage from New York, and learned to know my fellow-workers better, in their pleasant cottage home. In attending services in that little town and in San Juan, my ear accustomed itself to the Puerto Rican Spanish, and I made the acquaintance of many of the members of the little church already organized in Rio Piedras, and of Mr. McCormick's native assistant, Don Manuel Lebron. This man and his wife were the first baptized in Puerto Rico. The little church of forty-five or fifty members, meeting in the neat, airy chapel in Rio Piedras, is in good working order. Several times a week, the members and many outsiders listen with touching eagerness to Mr. McCormick's clear and helpful teachings of Scripture truths.

Miss Hayes's Bible classes among the women and children, on week-days as well as Sundays, are a most helpful factor in the work. She is very busy and happy in her rounds, both in the capital and in the smaller town of Rio Piedras, and even into the country beyond.

Our missionaries were just recovering from a form of duegue, or grippe, when I went to them. All are about well now.

After a delightful trip of perhaps one hundred and fifty miles, half way around the island, I reached La Plaza, the port of Ponce, early on last Sunday morning. It is an important date for me, the 5th of November, my real arrival at my new island home.

Through the tiny porthole in the upper berth of my stateroom I watched the sun rise in a blaze of purple and gold. Two stranded ships lifted their tilted masts and spars against the sky, and the water around our little

Mrs. Janie Pritchard Duggan.

Longfellow was like a rippling green lake. High mountains seemed to rise almost from the sea, on one side, sloping down on the other side to a low, palm-fringed beach.

An hour later, as I sat at breakfast, I heard a familiar and most welcome voice at my elbow, and there stood Mr. Rudd, with his pleasant smile and hearty greeting. A little boat carried us, trunk, bags, and steamer-chair, to shore, and, after a short delay, we came trotting along the military road to this city, in a carriage behind two of the little Puerto Rican horses. Mrs. Rudd, little Courtenay, and Baby Hugh, and a good breakfast, were waiting for us, and I was glad indeed to be quite at the end of my long journey.

Such opportunities for missionary work as there are in this island! It is among the poor and ignorant that there is most interest in the gospel we have come to teach. Already the hired hall in Ponce is too small to hold those who come to services, and Mr. Rudd is going to have a partition removed, which will give accommodation for many more chairs.

In Rio Piedras and in Ponce, I have already witnessed baptisms by Mr. McCormick and Mr. Rudd. I hope to send you a little picture of the Rio Piedras scene, with a description of the service and of the surrounding scenery; but I have not yet had my roll of "films" developed. Also, I shall write of last Sunday's baptisms, by Mr. Rudd, eleven in all, and the first in all this part of the island. The waters of the river Portuguez, which caused much devastation in the city during the recent hurricane, for the first time parted to receive men and women buried with Christ in baptism. It was a touching scene, in the cool evening light, and the large crowd on both banks were certainly impressed with the novel and significant ceremony.

During this week we are having services every night. I hope to begin work right away among the women, few of whom can read, and who are so willing to welcome the

foreign teacher. There is none of the fanaticism here met with in Mexico, and among those who listen from curiosity, or from hope of gain to themselves, the Lord surely has some who are to be his, to aid in Christianizing their own beautiful island.

This letter is already long, and I must stop writing. Just at first, Mr. and Mrs. Rudd are giving me a home with them, until I can find a room in this over-crowded and expensive town. You have no doubt learned of the grievous affliction these dear friends have suffered in the sudden loss of their four-year-old daughter, Rachel, a month ago. She was a bright and most lovable child, and it seems impossible, even now, to realize that she has gone from the little family circle. Mr. and Mrs. Rudd are bearing this trial with Christian patience and fortitude, and the Lord is bearing them up in his faithful arms.

I hope soon to send a letter especially written to the young people, giving some account of the parts of the island I have seen. They must learn to know it as it is,—not as many books and newspaper articles describe it. With greetings to you from Mr. Rudd. and his wife, and myself, I am, Yours sincerely, JANIE P. DUGGAN.

Our Hired Mission Hall at Mayor Street, Ponce.

A Country without Religion.

A ROMAN Catholic priest, Father Sherman, a son of Major-General Sherman, and chaplain of the Fourth Missouri, contributes an article to *The Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, in which he says: "Puerto Rico is a Catholic country without religion; that is to say, there is little practical Catholicity here, and no other pretended religion whatever.

LAST week Rev. Marco Mazzuca, a former Roman Catholic priest stationed at St. Michael's Italian Catholic Church in New Haven, Conn., was ordained into the Baptist ministry. He was born in Italy, and came to this country about four years ago.

The Fifty-Sixth Congress.

IT is less than eighteen months since Brigham H. Roberts was elected to Congress from Utah. He was an avowed polygamist, and had been convicted and punished in 1889. It has been stated, and he has not denied the statement, that he now lives with three wives, one having been taken since Statehood. When Congress adjourned last March, an informal vote in the House indicated that there would be little trouble in Roberts taking his seat and holding it. All through the summer, however, monster petitions have been rolling up, and mass meetings have been held, and when the 56th Congress assembled and Mr. Roberts's name was called by the Clerk of the House, objection was made to his being sworn in, and he was directed to stand aside. The case was referred to a special committee, and carried by a vote of 302 to 31, 29 Democrats, one Republican, and one silver party man voting in the negative. The presence of rolls of petitions, wrapped in the American flag, having the signature of 7,000,000 people, showed that the sentiment of the country is overwhelmingly against the seating of Roberts. We are glad that we as a society have had our part in securing this result. The purity of the home is the safeguard of the Republic. We believe that the committee which has in hand the investigation of the charges against Mr. Roberts should be remembered in our prayers, that clear vision and correct judgment may be theirs as they settle this important matter. Should Mr. Roberts be denied a seat in Congress, there remains much work for that body to do, in passing a Constitutional Amendment making it impossible for a polygamist to hold office.

Mormons in Mexico.

"THE colonization of Mormons in the republic of Mexico, which for several years has been going on so extensively as to attract a considerable degree of attention from those who speculate in regard to the future of the "latter day saints," has been somewhat hindered by the Yaqui rebellion. The greater part of the land granted to the Mormons by the Mexican authorities is in the State of Sonora, and a portion of it is in the undeveloped territory claimed by the Yaquis. The movement has not been wholly interrupted, however, and though the rebellion is by no means ended, three hundred Mormon families have recently arrived at Hermosillo, on the Sonora River, *en route* for their future home on lands granted them under a concession from the Mexican government. They say that another body of two hundred families from Utah will join them before the first of the year. The Mexican government is encouraging this emigration by great liberality in the granting of lands, and by permitting the colonists to practise all the peculiar customs of their religion, *including polygamy*. This, perhaps, accounts for the fact that the movement is also encouraged by the authorities of the Mormon church. The colonists are showing the same industry in Sonora that characterized the early Mormons who redeemed the district about Salt Lake from the desert, but if they should sometime join the Indians in fighting Mexico, as the organizers of the State of Deseret fought the United States, the present policy of the government of Diaz may prove to have been short-sighted."

American Baptist Home Mission Society.

Editorial Notes.

TO all "A Happy New Year!"

"Happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

"Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

"Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness; and Thy paths drop fatness."

"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

"God be merciful to us and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations."

The American Baptist Home Mission Society rejoices in the hearty good-will of its large constituency, and takes occasion, to announce that it will keep open house, from January 1st to March 31st, for the reception of offerings for its work.

The remarkably cordial welcome given to our missionaries in eastern Cuba and Puerto Rico is a fresh evidence that the field there is white unto the harvest. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send more laborers thither; and also that larger offerings be made for the support of missionaries and for the erection of meeting-houses in those lands.

If we do not evangelize Cuba and Puerto Rico, who will? And if we do not evangelize Mexico, who will? Here are our neighbors; here at our elbows are fifteen million people needing the gospel. Peculiar responsibility rests upon us in this matter.

The Field Secretary of the Home Mission Society expects to give the readers of ECHOES some incidents of his recent visit to the Hawaiian Islands and Alaska, with illustrations from photographs taken while there. These lands are of growing importance and interest, and claim the thoughtful consideration of all who desire them to be dominated by the principles of the gospel.

Will not the pastors of our New England churches call attention of their people to HOME MISSION ECHOES at the next monthly concert of prayer for missions, and urge them to subscribe for it? Only twenty cents a year is a mere trifle for all the excellent things it contains. This is the price to clubs of five and upwards.

Our Annuity Plan.

THE annuity plan of the American Baptist Home Mission Society is growing in favor with those who desire to devote a portion of their means to the Lord's work, and to do this in a way that there can be no contest over the matter by heirs who may be disposed to break the will of the testator. By this plan the donor receives a bond from the Society, guaranteeing the payment of a stipulated sum semi-annually during his life. Thus he receives the benefit of the income just as if he retained and invested the principal, while he has no trouble or expense in looking after the investment. A large number of our most sagacious men and women are thus honoring the Lord with their substance. Particulars will be furnished to any one writing to Secretary T. J. Morgan, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York City; or to District Secretary F. T. Hazelwood, Tremont Temple, Boston, Mass.

What are They Worth to Us?

THIS is the question frequently asked concerning the countries and particularly the peoples of the lands recently acquired by the United States or over which its protectorate extends. Of what worth to us are the Cubans, the Puerto Ricans, the Hawaiians, and the conglomerate peoples of the Philippines? The commercial features of the case are put in the foreground. The quality of these peoples is regarded as quite inferior to that of the average citizen of the United States.

Is this the proper point of view for a Christian people? The one thing for which we condemned Spain was that she was interested in her dependencies only for the sake of what they were worth to her; for what she could get out of them, by fair means or foul, for the advancement of her own interest. She cared nothing for their development only so far as it might become tributary to her pride of power and to her greed for gain. At the close of her tyrannical rule they were indeed in a deplorable condition. They are not worth much to us as factors in our national life and progress. Grant all this: but are we prepared to dispose of the subject on such a mercenary basis? Where is the element of philanthropy, of Christianity in this?

Our Christian inquiry should not be, "What are they worth to us?" but "What may we be worth to them?" The spirit of Christ in his people does not ask how much these lowly peoples can minister to our greatness; but how much we can minister to their exaltation. For the Son of

man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to mankind. This is the mission of Christian churches and of a Christian nation. We are debtors to the barbarian and under the obligation of divine love to impart to them what we have freely received.

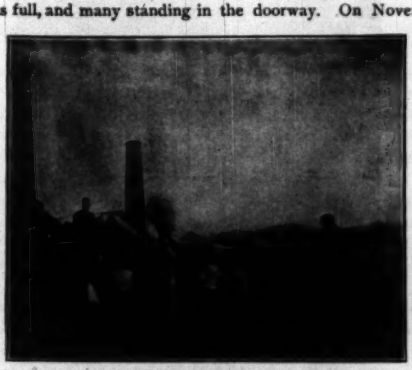
Not our need of them, but their need of us should determine our attitude and conduct toward them. That they need us there can be no doubt; that they need our guidance, counsel, and, above all, the truth of the gospel of which they are almost wholly ignorant. The American Baptist Home Mission Society is trying as best it can with the limited resources at its disposal to give the gospel to the people of Puerto Rico and Cuba, thereby striving to answer the question: *What we may be worth to them.*

H. L. M.

First Baptisms in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

REV. A. B. RUDD, Missionary of the Home Mission Society in Ponce, Puerto Rico, gives an interesting account of the first baptisms on his field. The eagerness of the people to hear the gospel is wonderful.

"Our congregations have grown to considerable proportions. The rear end of my hall I had cut off for an office or study, where I might keep books and receive callers. Two weeks ago we held a series of meetings, during which I found it necessary to take down our division and throw the whole room into one service hall. I can now seat 180, but need still more room. Last Sunday night one room was full, and many standing in the doorway. On Novem-



First Preaching of the Gospel in Spanish in Puerto Rico, by Mr. Shaw.

ber 5th I baptized eleven candidates here, or, the first fruits of our labors in Ponce. Day before yesterday, November 19th, I added seven more to the list of baptized, and tonight we hope to organize those eighteen into a church. More than one hundred have asked for baptism, but I am afraid to go too fast. The first baptisms were witnessed by some three hundred persons, who were eager to see how Christ was baptized. As the ordinance was administered some distance out from the city, where there were no houses convenient for changing the clothing, I had two small tents made, which served well their purpose, and which will be very useful in the future."

Our National Pyramid.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY, in his address at Chicago, said:—

"On the reverse side of the seal of the United States, authorized by Congress, June 20, 1782, and adopted as the seal of the United States of America, after the formation under the Federal Constitution, is the pyramid signifying strength and duration. The eye over it, and the motto, allude to the many signal interpositions of Providence in favor of the American cause. The date under the heath, 1776, is that of the Declaration of Independence, and the words under it signify the beginning of a new American era, which commenced from that date.

"Has the pyramid lost any of its strength? Has the Republic lost any of its virility? Is there any present menace to our stability and duration? These questions bring but one answer. The Republic is sturdier than ever before. Government by the people has been advanced. Freedom under the flag is more universal than when the Union was formed. Our steps have been forward, not backward. From Plymouth Rock to the Philippines the grand triumphant march of human liberty has never paused.

"After one hundred and twenty-three years the pyramid stands unshaken. It has had some severe shocks, but it remains immovable. It has endured the storms of war, only to be stronger. It stands firmer, and gives greater promise of duration than when the fathers made it the symbol of their faith.

"May we not feel assured that, if we do our duty, Providence, which favored the undertakings of the fathers and every step of our progress, still will continue its watchful care and guidance over us, and that the Hand that led us to our present plane will not relax its grasp till we have reached the glorious goal God has fixed for us in the achievement of His end?"

Thronged Meetings in Cuba.

REV. H. R. MOSELEY, D. D., Missionary of the Home Mission Society in Santiago, Cuba, writes:

"As soon as the titles are made, I will proceed to fit up the big room in front for services, as the place in which we are now holding our services is entirely too small to accommodate the crowds who come. I have never in my life seen so many people willing and anxious to hear the gospel. I could receive fifty people any night, but they have no conception of spiritual religion. The owner of the house in which we live said yesterday: 'I am going to join you all; what must I do, and when can I be baptized?' I asked him some questions, and found that he knew absolutely nothing about the religion of Christ and its requirements. He said: 'I hate the Catholics, and want to join you.' This speech and his reason for wanting to join us, is a fair sample of the feeling among a large part of the population. We have begun preaching in the open air, and large crowds gather and give respectful attention. Brother Teofilo preached last night to three hundred people in a distant part of the city.

"Brother Carlisle is studying Spanish, preaching it three or four hours daily; preaching about daily to the large colony of Jamaican negroes in different parts of the city."

Education and Religion.

WITH a view of giving some conception of the illiteracy which exists on the island of Puerto Rico, it may be said that in a total population of 806,708 (census 1887, thought to be very defective), only fourteen per cent. of the people can read and write, or read only, or there are at least 695,328 persons who are compelled to make their mark, and to whom the printed page is wholly unintelligible. The educated people are gathered in the larger cities, and hence the percentage of illiteracy is much smaller in the towns, while that of the country is more

Church in Plaza at Mayaguez.

profound, until in some rural districts a pall of utter ignorance envelops the people which could not be greatly exceeded even in the heart of Africa. In the Ponce district, where the claim is made that the least illiteracy obtains, there are three barrios, with a combined population of 5,500 souls, where but six per cent. of the people can read or write, and 8,000 more in one barrio where but eight or nine per cent. read the words upon the printed page.

While the condition of ignorance is far reaching upon the island to-day, it may be said that the Puerto Rican youngster possesses the inherent ability to learn readily, and looks forward to schooling as a pleasure. Under a proper school system, the intellectual tone of the island population may be raised in a generation from an almost bestial position to a point where the people will become average thinking citizens of the United States.

The clergy of the island say that Puerto Rico is a Godless country; that her people live without hope or desire for elevation. The people, upon the other hand, retort that the holy cloth has been from time immemorial disgraced and prostituted by the representatives of the church whom Spain has hired and forced upon them.

There are seventy-one cathedrals on the island, one in every town of consequence, constructed and paid for by the central government with taxes collected from the people.

The average government support for each church is over 2,000 pesos per annum, and the lowest salary paid, excepting that of care-takers, is 600 pesos per year. The average salary for school-teachers, who are so badly needed, is but half that amount. To the hardship of insufficient salary is added to the teacher the mortification of having his avocation looked down upon as degrading, for mediævalism has not yet been rooted out, and the office of the scribe is considered a menial one.

The life of the clergy seems to have been one of idleness and almost complete indolence in the past. They have never been active factors in an effort to ameliorate the depressed condition of the people; they have never been educators, and, as spiritual advisers, their relation to the people has apparently been purely perfunctory. The result has been to almost wholly separate the people from the church — a church in which "we dare not send our daughters to confession," said one bitter layman. Most of the population profess religious sentiments, but church attendance is restricted to a few women and girls, and whether the opprobrium heaped upon the clergy be deserved or not, the stigma cannot now be removed without a complete remodelling of the organization. Under the American régime which has set in, the church appropriations have already been cut off, and reconstruction now rests in the hands of the people themselves, as the future support of the church is made dependent upon the spirit of the populace.

(Condensed from "Puerto Rico: Its Conditions and Possibilities." Copyright by Harper & Brothers. 1899. Price, $2.50.)

Street in Ponce.

HAVE you and I to-day
Stood silent as with Christ, apart from joy or fray
Of life, to see by faith His face;
To look, if but a moment, at its grace,
And grow, by brief companionship, more true,
More nerved to lead, to dare to do,
For Him at any cost? Have we to-day
Found time, in thought, our hand to lay
In His, and thus compare
His will with ours, and wear
The impress of His wish? Be sure
Such contact will endure
Throughout the day; will help us walk erect
Through storm and flood; detect
Within the hidden life sin's dross, its stain;
Revive a thought of love for him again;
Steady the steps which waver; help to see
The footpath meant for you and me.

Home Life in Puerto Rico.*

Among the Well-to-do.

THE home life of well-to-do natives is very simple, due largely to the fact that excessive duties, lack of transportation facilities, and abominable roads — except the military roads — have militated against the introduction into their homes of the comforts which we consider essential to life.

Even the finest haciendas are meagre and barren in

Puerto Rican House of the Better Class.

their interior fittings. The floors are always bare. The walls have few pictures, though now and then one is surprised to see a clever painting by one of the masters of the modern French school. The usual wall decorations is a pair of Spanish bas-reliefs in colored plaster or papier-mache.

Cane-seated furniture is used exclusively. The great rolling rocking-chairs constitute the principal furniture, with a sprinkling of straight-back chairs and cane settees. Many of these chairs would set the lover of novel forms and finely carved furniture wild, as numbers of them are rare antiques, handed down for generations. The mathematical precision with which all the furniture is placed in a well-regulated household always creates a thrill of horror in the æsthetic breast. Around the centre-table, equally spaced, are the great rocking-chairs; against one wall, like guarding sentries, are the straight-backed chairs, while flat against the other wall is placed a cane couch or two.

The beds, of brass or metal, are dreams in design, covered with canopies of lace, having auxiliary mosquito netting, gathered up on the top during the day and let down at night.

The dining-room is always quite bare, with the exception of the table and chairs, and perhaps a side-table, which holds the multitude of dishes for an ordinary dinner.

The kitchen has much of interest and novelty. Modern ranges are seldom a part of the culinary furniture. Every house has its charcoal cooking-pit, built out of brick, waist high, the top of the bench being covered with a series of small, square, grated holes, over which pots and kettles and frying-pans are placed. Charcoal, in a country where coal is expensive and gas is unknown, is the ideal fuel for cooking food. It makes a quick, hot fire, with a minimum amount of fuel, and the many small holes permit a large number of dishes to be cooked and kept hot at the same time.

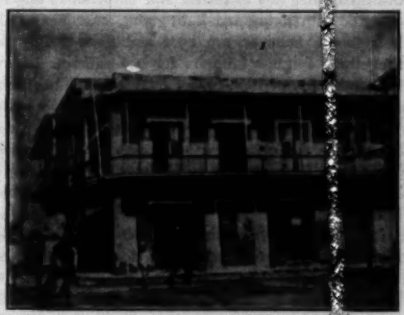
The evenings in the home, for instance, of the mayor of the town, are spent around the marble-topped centre-table, lazily rocking to and fro in the big rocking-chairs. The men smoke their cigarettes — the women never smoke — and a flow of small talk, filled with simple jokes and sallies, constitutes the evening's entertainment. Where they have pianos, the daughters exhibit their limited skill on instruments, which are jangled and out of tune. One never sees a book or magazine in these houses, though in two or three of the larger cities there are literary men. Reading is not a strong point in this island population. The women are pictures of self-complacent indolence in the evenings, though it must be understood that Puerto Rican women are far more assiduous in their interest in household economy than are the women of the other Spanish speaking territories of North America.

Every little comfort that these people can provide for the stranger within their gates is offered with a wholesale cordiality that appeals to the heart by its true and unaffected ring, and, as Americans coming among them, we should remember that by meeting this spirit measure for measure, we shall follow one pathway to a sincere and lasting mutuality of interests.

* (Condensed from "Puerto Rico; Its Conditions and Possibilities." Copyright by Harper & Brothers. 1899. Price, $2.50.)

Spurgeon's Sermons in Spanish.

"SERMONES DE SPURGEON" is the title of a book of 360 pages, containing seventeen sermons of this prince of preachers on the most essential doctrines of our



Hotel in Arecibo.

evangelical faith. These were translated, and published first in La Luz, by Rev. W. H. Sloan, who was enabled to meet the expense by the gift of $1,000 from the late Mrs. Mercy M. Gray, of Oakland, Cal. This volume is a reservoir of evangelical truth for the native ministry in Mexico, while also it affords them a study in sermonizing. It contains a portrait of Spurgeon, and the Metropolitan Tabernacle which was burned. It must prove a valuable help to all workers, both in Mexico, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

A Puerto Rican Parable.

HERE is a romantic story connected with the introduction of coffee into the West Indies. The Dutch had long controlled its cultivation, and had taken every care lest it should be carried to islands not in their possession. But in 1714 an Amsterdam magistrate presented Louis XIV. of France with a single plant for his botanical collection. It was tenderly nursed by the shrewd Frenchman, and in time plants from this parent tree were sent to Martinique. On the way the ship's supply of water got very low, but the botanist in charge deprived himself of half his daily allowance and shared it with his precious plants. They were soon growing and producing richly in their new home, and from there were carried to Cuba and Puerto Rico. There the coffee that clothes in beautiful green the slopes of mountain and hillside in Puerto Rico and Cuba to-day came from that one delicate plant. Now Puerto Rico alone exports about $9,000,000 worth of the fragrant bean annually.

This is the day of small things, of beginnings, in Puerto Rico. Schools must be opened, churches must be established. The American Baptist Home Mission Society has begun most auspiciously its work here, and Baptists must see that it is abundantly supplied with the sinews of war — war for the liberation of a noble people from the wreck and ruin of priestcraft and superstition. The little done now will multiply itself, and go on bearing fruit increasingly and unceasingly during all the years to come. Each little church organized now will become the fruitful mother of churches, until this beautiful and unfortunate isle shall be spangled with living and light-giving churches of God. Little bodies of believers are here and there being gathered together; but new laborers for a dozen new fields are needed, and badly needed, to-day. These little beginnings mean glorious things for society and for the souls of men in Puerto Rico. Loyalty to God and loyalty to our country lay upon us the obligation of evangelizing this people, who look to us for sympathy and help.

As the coffee spread from Martinique to the neighboring islands, the time is near when from Puerto Rico influences for good will go out for the blessing of sister nations of Spanish-speaking America. The door is open; let us enter in. The plow is in the furrow; let us hasten the sowing. The iron is hot; let it be struck. "The parched ground" of to-day will become the pool of to-morrow, with outflowing streams of blessing.—*Hugh P. McCormick, in the New York Examiner.*

PRES. J. H. SCOTT, of the Indian University, Bacone, Ind. Ter., states that he has applications from five young Cherokees, who wish to prepare for the work of the ministry among their people. They are poor young men, unable to pay much for their education. There are three other ministerial students in the institution. Fifty dollars would help a young man through his year's studies. Please send your pledge for this purpose to H. L. Morehouse, Field Secretary, 111 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Friendship of Mexico for the United States.

OPPORTUNITY for the evangelization of a people consists largely in two things: their accessibility, and a favorable temper of mind toward those who bear the gospel message. Mexico, our next-door neighbor, is readily accessible, her railways opening up the country to easy approach at nearly all the great centres of population.

The temper of the Mexican mind toward the United States has not always been cordial; indeed, the Romish hierarchy have spared no pains to prejudice the people against this country, whose liberalizing influence in Mexico they particularly dread, as the doom of their denomination. They have harped on the injustice of the Mexican war in 1846, and have insinuated or directly asserted that American missionaries to Mexico were only emissaries in disguise, whose ultimate purpose was to bring about annexation to the United States. While these statements had little or no weight with intelligent people, they were often effectual in creating aversion to Protestant missionaries.

In these circumstances, therefore, it is most refreshing to hear the appreciative utterances of the Vice-President of that Republic at the banquet to President McKinley in Chicago, in October last. It shows the warm spirit of friendship which is binding these two Republics closer together, and must have great weight in Mexico in silencing the traducers of this country. This temper of mind, this hospitable spirit, constitutes one of the signs of the times in favor of earnest missionary effort among a people who, in many things, have sought our guidance.

Vice-President Mariscal said: "I believe I should venture some few brief remarks in order to express the feeling toward the United States. Mexico, gentlemen, as you may know, has fought twice for her independence, which her people really idolize. The first time was at the beginning of this century, and during eleven years, when no nation could or wished to give us any assistance. The second time, less than forty years ago, we had to battle against Napoleonic intervention, and, in spite of our heroic resistance, prolonged for five long years, we might have succumbed, yielding to force, had it not been for the powerful influence of the United States, which promptly settled matters in our favor.

"That historical fact has not been forgotten by any true Mexican, and we all keep it engraved in our hearts. Providence has made us neighbors, and our common interest requires for us to keep as intimate friends. It is not only vicinity that binds us together; we have adopted your institutions; we have shaped our political being after your model, and the very symbol of our nationality is almost identical with yours — both are the famous bird of Jove, an eagle. May, then, these two eagles soar forever, flying along parallel lines — the American guiding, the Mexican following, always encouraged by the example of her elder sister."

THE thorough evangelization of America is of paramount importance, both for the perpetuation of the best in our civilization and for the speedy evangelization of the world.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

CONDUCTED BY ANNA SARGENT HUNT.

Our Girls.

"Listen, O isles, unto me."—ISAIAH 49 : 1.

"Let the multitude of isles be glad."—PSALM 97 : 1.

MY DEAR GIRLS :

As we have been thinking about the mission fields which we study this month — Cuba and Puerto Rico — the many verses of the Good Book which make special mention of the isles of the sea have been very much in mind. It is said they shall wait upon God, and in his arm they shall trust.

Perhaps from the homes of one and another who read these pages there went forth, last year, brave fathers and brothers who fought for the freedom of the people of the islands of which we speak. Not, however, until a knowledge of the way of salvation shall come to the darkened minds, will they know the freedom which Jesus meant when he said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Puerto Rico has many beautiful natural features, and, like Cuba, is rich in tropical vegetation and minerals.

A recent writer in the *Review of Reviews* calls the Puerto Ricans a patient, gentle people. She says: "Come with me and glance within the homes of some of the women and children of San Juan, the capital city — one small room, or perhaps two, in the basement, or the street floor of the city houses, with no windows, unless a small aperture at front and rear, no furniture except of the most meagre kind, and the barest necessities to keep life going.

"Follow me away from this better part of the city, out into the suburbs; and there only the one room, or a small hovel of dried palm leaves and grasses, with poverty written plainly on the abode. . . . The children are clamoring for education, — not for play or time to waste, but to learn to grow great and grand, like the *Americanos*.

The native mothers will consider it an honor to send their children to American schools, and to bring them up as true American citizens will be the entire end and aim of their ambition.

The Book in Manuel's Saddlebags.

"MANUEL will not let me talk to him of his blessed Book, but perhaps the Book itself may speak to him. He is going this time where the people see a priest and hear a sermon only once in three years. Manuel need not fear the priest's fierce words, if this Book they hate so is found in his hand."

So Maria Caldas, her heart uplifted in prayer to God, slipped a Bible into her brother's saddlebags, already packed with lottery tickets which he was going to sell in the country districts of Cuba.

Several days of bad weather detained Manuel at a large plantation house. He was welcome, for the roads were rough, and travellers and news seldom came that way. Searching his saddlebags for something to amuse his hostess, he found Maria's Bible. At first it was handled as a curiosity, and Manuel took care to explain that it was his sister, not he, who had embraced the "new religion." But soon the lady became deeply interested.

"Why, this is just the Book I have been longing for for years! Tell me what it means."

Manuel shook his head. "If my sister were here, she could explain," he said.

"Then she shall come, and stay with us, and tell us of these things," cried the lady, eagerly.

Maria was sent for, a timid woman, who had known the way of salvation by grace but a few months. Should she go? Ah, yes; how could she *not* go and share with those hungry ones the Bread of Life? Had she not known that hunger, too?

A large audience greeted her. She spoke in the dining-room of the plantation house for several nights. Then a native preacher came, and soon was formed a church of earnest believers. Manuel, also, cast off the yoke of a false faith, and now he travels even more energetically than before, going far into the interior, where no preacher has ever been, but his saddlebags carry better goods than in former days, for they are filled with Bibles, and he is a successful missionary colporter.—*Kind Words.*

"For the new years come,
And the old years go,
As swings Time's pendulum
To and fro;
But the kingdom grows."

Our Little Folks.

What the Boughs Said.

LAST night, as I strode down the frozen road
That the tall trees bower in spring,
'Mong the boughs that stirred I thought I heard
A jubilant whispering.

"They are happy there in the frosty air,"
I said, as I sped away,
"For I haven't a doubt they are chatting about
The gowns they will don in May."

— *Selected.*

Program for January Meeting.

Subject — The New Year and Our New Work.

1. Opening Hymn. "Jesus Christ our Saviour," (one or two children singing the questions, the others joining in answers and chorus), No. 16, Gospel Hymns No. 5.

2. Prayer by the leader for God's blessing on the work of the Band for the year to come.

3. By the members in concert:

Lord, guide my steps and rule my thoughts,
To-day and every day,
And let me keep thee in my mind
In all I do and say.

Question. What is the New Year saying to us?

Answer — Recitation by a little boy.

The New Year.

"Now, what is that noise?" said the glad New Year,
"Now, what is that singular sound I hear?
As if all the paper in all the world
Were rattled and shaken and twisted and twirled."

"Oh, that," said the jolly old Earth, "is the noise
Of all my children, both girls and boys,
A-turning over their leaves so new,
And all to do honor, New Year, to you."

Ques. What more can be said of the Book of the New Year?

Ans. Recitation by a little girl.

The book of the New Year is opened,
Its pages are spotless and new;
And so, as each leaflet is turning,
Dear children, beware what you do.

Let never a bad thought be cherished,
Keep the tongue from a whisper of guile,
And see that your faces are windows
Through which a sweet spirit shall smile.

And weave for your souls the fair garment
Of honor, and beauty, and truth,
Which will still with a glory enfold you,
When faded the spell of your youth.

And if on some page you discover,
At evening, a blot or a scrawl,
Kneel quickly, and ask the dear Saviour
In mercy to cover it all.

So when the strange book shall be finished,
And clasped by the angel so tight,
You may feel, though the work be imperfect,
You have earnestly tried for the right.

Leader. The children in answer to their names will, in this New Year's meeting, tell us what the Bible says about new things.

(a) A new song; responses, Psalm 40 : 3; 96 : 1; 98 : 1; 144 : 9; 149 : 1; Isaiah 42 : 10; Rev. 5 : 9; 14 : 3.
(b) A new commandment. John 13 : 34.
(c) A new heart and spirit. Ezek. 11 : 19; 36 : 26.
(d) A new creature. 2 Cor. 5 : 17.
(e) A new name. Rev. 2 : 17.
(f) Our new mercies. Lam. 3 : 22, 23.

To be read by the leader after a word of explanation of the new life of the Christian. See Rom. 6 : 4.

"New mercies, new blessings, new light on thy way;
New courage, new hope, and new strength for each day;
New notes of thanksgiving, new chords of delight;
New songs in the morning, new songs in the night;
New wine in the chalice, new altars to raise;
New fruits for thy Master, new garments of praise;
New gifts from his treasure, new smiles from his face;
New streams from the fountains of infinite grace;
New stars for thy crown, and new tokens of love;
New gleams for the glory that waits thee above;
New light of his countenance, full and unpriced —
All this be the joy of thy new life in Christ."

Singing, "Little Lights," No. 121, Gospel Hymns No. 5.

Leader. We are to study this month about a new mission work we are to do. Where shall we find the people for whom we are to labor?

Ans. On the beautiful island of Cuba, which is called the "Queen of the Antilles."

Ques. Why is it so called?

Ans. Because very long ago certain travellers reported there was a goodly island in the Pacific Ocean west of the Canary Islands, which they named Antilia. Columbus

found there was no such island, but in 1492 he discovered the West Indies, or the Antilles, as some call them. Cuba has also been called the "Pearl" of the Antilles, and the "Gem of the ocean," on account of its beauty and great riches.

Ques. Of what do its riches consist?

Ans. Of delicious fruits, sugar, coffee, tobacco, spices, valuable woods, such as mahogany, ebony, cedar, etc., copper, coal, and marble. There are many birds of beautiful plumage. There are thirty kinds of palms, and from three to four thousand flowering plants.

Ques. What interesting fact can you give about the Antilles?

Ans. We are told that the hundreds of islands are lofty peaks of a mountain range running under the sea for nearly two thousand miles. From the lowest portion in the ocean valley to the highest mountain peak is more than seven miles. Cuba is the western extremity of this submarine chain of mountains.

Ques. What is the shape and size of Cuba?

Ans. It is like a crescent in form. Its length is 750 miles. At its widest point it is 135 miles wide, and at its narrowest about 30. It has a coast line of 2,200 miles, or of nearly 7,000 miles, if we reckon all its various inlets and harbors.

Ques. What is the population?

Ans. From one and a half to two millions. Havana (or Haven, so named on account of its magnificent harbor) is its largest city, and has 250,000 inhabitants. The people are Spaniards, negroes, Chinese coolies, creoles of mixed blood, and Americans.

Ques. What is the religion of Cuba?

Ans. Romanism; but the people are more willing than they are in Mexico and other Catholic countries, to hear the true gospel.

Ques. Has any mission work ever been done in Cuba?

Ans. Yes, by earnest workers in different denominations; but the largest work has been done by the Baptists of the South, who have organized churches in several of the largest cities.

Ques. Who has been called the "Apostle to Cuba?"

Ans. Alberto J. Diaz, a Cuban physician, who took part in a rebellion against Spain, and to avoid being taken prisoner by the enemy, jumped into the sea. He was picked up by a vessel and carried to New York. Being taken very ill, he was placed in a hospital, when a young Christian girl visited him nearly every day, reading to him from the Bible, a book which he had never seen, and which he could not understand as he knew but little English.

Ques. What did Diaz say she did after reading in the "little book?"

Ans. "She closed her eyes and talked to herself."

Ques. What do we know she was doing?

Ans. She was asking God to show the young Cuban that He alone could forgive his sins, and make him His child.

Ques. What was the result?

Ans. Having obtained a copy of the Bible in the Spanish language, he began to read it carefully, and when he knew the wonderful story of the life, sufferings, and death of Jesus, he became a Christian, and soon after joined a Baptist church in Brooklyn, N. Y. When the rebellion was over, Diaz returned to Cuba and told his people what he had learned.

Ques. Did they listen to him gladly?

Ans. Some believed what he said, but the priests became very angry, and determined to stop his preaching. They wanted the people to confess their sins to them, and to pray to images instead of to God. The Roman Catholic church gets a great deal of money from the poor people. Diaz suffered very much from the treatment he received, and narrowly escaped death.

Ques. When did great happiness come to him?

Ans. When he saw his family and many of his friends give their hearts to Jesus, and when the first Baptist church in Cuba was organized, Jan. 6, 1886.

Ques. What incident can you give to show how deeply his heart was touched?

Ans. The first person he baptized, after he became a minister, was his mother, and when he led her down into the water he forgot the words he intended to speak, and could only say, "Here, Jesus, this is my mother."

Ques. What can you tell about the later work of this good man?

Ans. He was on the staff of Gen. Miles in our late war, acting as interpreter, and through his efforts thousands of pages of gospel tracts were distributed. He is now laboring in Havana.

Ques. When did the American Baptist Home Mission Society appoint its first missionary to eastern Cuba?

Ans. In January, 1899, and those who are planning the work believe that a great many will become Christians in Cuba if we are interested to send missionaries and teachers there. In this work all the children can help.

4. Reports.

To be sung before the collection.

Hymn: A Prayer for Mission Bands.

Air: "Stand up for Jesus."

DEAR Saviour, bless the children
Who've gathered here to-day;
Oh, send thy Holy Spirit,
And teach us how to pray.

Dear Lord, wilt thou not teach us
To keep thy great command,
And send the blessed gospel
Abroad through every land?

Oh, send the missionaries
With messages of love,
Of wonderful salvation
Brought to us from above.

Bless what we're bravely doing;
Oh, bless our gifts, though small;
Hear our prayer for Jesus' sake;
Send light and truth to all.

Exchange.

Adjournment.